

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 5 are pending, and claim 2 is canceled. Claims 1, 3, and 4 are currently amended, and claim 5 is newly added.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Because claim 2 is now canceled, the rejection of that claim is moot. Regarding the other claims, applicants amend claim 1 to overcome their rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejection is now requested.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Sasse et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,497,312. Claim 1 is now amended to include the subject matter originally recited in claim 2. That is, claim 1, as amended, does not recite everything that the former version recited.

However, claim 2 is indicated as allowable in the Office Action, and applicants believe that the amended claim 1 is also allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the anticipation rejection is now requested.

Applicants appreciate that claims 3 and 4 are also indicated as allowable.

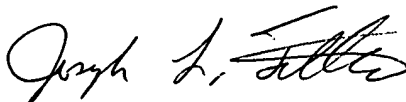
Applicants also add new claim 5, which is based on original claim 1 with additional features, such as a "limiting means," which find support in the specification, page 10, second full paragraph. The merits of the limiting means are discussed on page 15, first full paragraph, and on page 16, second full paragraph. Applicants submit that Sasse et al. does not teach or suggest this subject matter recited in claim 5.

In view of the remarks above, applicants now submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowability is hereby requested. If for any reason it is believed that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is welcome to

contact applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to discuss resolution of the remaining issues.

If necessary, the undersigned authorizes deducting any fees that may be due from Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph L. Felber", written in a cursive style.

Joseph L. Felber
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 48,109
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

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